

EXPLO Systems, Incorporated – Camp Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana

May 9, 2013

- On April 2-3, 2013, at the request of the Louisiana National Guard (LANG), a team from the DOD (US ARMY) Explosives Safety Board (ESB) conducted a safety assessment of the hazards associated with the M6 propellant at EXPLO Systems, Incorporated at Camp Minden, LA.
- On May 7-9, 2013, an 8-member team from the DOD (US ARMY) ESB returned to EXPLO Systems and conducted a safety assessment of all the explosive hazards associated with EXPLO.
 - The safety assessment included the investigation of explosive hazards within the EXPLO facility and the storage magazines at Camp Minden.
 - The ESB is currently generating a report detailing the safety assessment and a disposal plan or Open Burn Open Detonation (OBOD) Plan for the explosive materials associated with EXPLO Systems.
 - The interim recommendations are to dispose of the following through on-site disposal at Camp Minden as part of the OBOD Plan(sequentially):
 - 2 drums and 3-50 lb. boxes of unsecured Ammonium Picrate (Yellow D)(shock sensitive explosive)
 - Will require emergency disposal by LSP EOD technicians with potential support from US ARMY EOD technicians
 - 110,000 lbs. of M30 propellant – stability concerns due to age of material
 - 300,000 lbs. of Potassium Nitrate (oxidizer)
 - 660,000 lbs. of Nitrocellulose (highly flammable solid)
 - Requires wetting agent (alcohol or water for stability) – EXPLO has not maintained the wetting agent for 6 + years
 - 110,000 lbs. of other propellant (currently being identified by ESB)
 - 15 million lbs. of M6 propellant – prioritized by stability concerns
 - 1.8 million lbs. of Tritonal mixture
- Under the direction of the LSP, EXPLO employees are securing the remaining unsecured M6 propellant and 130,000 lbs. of Tritonal into magazines at Camp Minden.
 - Once the M6 propellant and Tritonal are secured within magazines, Red/Pink Water (3,000 lbs and 3-55 gallon drums) and Tar Paper/Plastic/TNT residue (700 lbs.) will remain unsecured at the EXPLO facility.
- Based on the recommendations from the US ARMY ESB, LANG will request assistance from the US ARMY to implement the US ARMY ESB OBOD disposal plan.
 - LANG will request assistance from EPA to supplement US ARMY and Louisiana State (LANG and LSP) resources.
- On May 2, Legal Counsel from the DOD contracting department issued a letter to General Dynamics detailing the potential contracting violations if materials intended for disposal or reuse are currently stored at EXPLO Systems as part of a contract between DOD and General Dynamics.
 - DOD instructed General Dynamics to engage EXPLO on this issue and coordinate with LANG, LSP, and EPA.